

12/17/67

FRANK BARTES

Friday afternoon or evening I made an appointment with Bartes for an interview yesterday. He at first fixed the time beginning at 3 p.m. I preferred an earlier time and at one point he agreed, saying that if I'd call his home (888-1806) or office (Medalion Realty, 3949 Veteran's Highway, 888-1346), who ever answered at either place would know his whereabouts. I did phone each place earlier, left messages which later checks revealed had been delivered, ~~IN~~ and he never returned the calls. In fact, I have yet to hear from him. When I phoned the real estate office and was speaking ~~with~~^W with the secretary, I heard a man in the background ask, "Is that Mr. Weisberg?" The girl she said, "Mr. Lopez will speak to you." Mr. Lopez attempted to apologize for Bartes' not having phoned me back. However, Bartes had told me his only important chore for yesterday was the acquisition of the family Christmas tree. I understood him to be saying that he would be free before three p.m. and we could meet at his office before 3. In any event, I assured Mr. Lopez that I was confident Mr. Bartes was not without a nickel in his pocket and that I was not happy about having had so large a part of a day loused up for no good reason.

During our first conversation I had told Bartes, who at first demurred, saying there was nothing he knew, that I had copies of official documents I presumed he'd be interested in. I told him I was confident he was unaware of the uses of his name and offered him a copy of the FBI report, etc. This is what seems to have interested him. When I heard nothing from him, I spoke to Alberto who said Bartes had flown planes in the Congo. I wonder if this is not sufficient reason and explanation.

Bartes was once a millionaire. He reportedly ~~(Cowler)~~^{by} gave Castro \$1,000,000, prior to nationalization of the railroads. Bartes, among his property holdings, had a north-shore line. He seems to have gotten some of his wealth out and not to have done well with it in the US. A check back with Alberto indicates Bartes has been acting strangely for some time (possibly beginning with your investigation?). I have not bothered to try and persuade him again. I believe he is not a fool, is a very worried man, and would benefit more from a strong, official interrogation. Also, I believe when knowledge of it penetrates the Cuban Community, others might be more willing to cooperate. I told Alberto and Douglas Lethbridge of the appearances of his name, so they can better help.

Louis has tape.